

THE FIRST MEETING OF ASF

Minutes of proceedings at the First Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation, hold at Parnanga S.A. 26th.-28th. Dec.1956.

Please note that these minutes are a brief précis of actual proceedings. It is not economically possible nor is it necessary to circulate the total record. However, this is held in Federation files, and is therefore available to any member society for inspection.
The principle followed in making this précis has been to put down all motions but to exclude the discussion on these unless this was of special significance.

Opening.

The meeting was declared open by the president of the host society - the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia - Mr. Elery Hamilton-Smith. He welcomed all delegates, and expressed the hope that this federation would help the Australian Societies to build up a standard of caving that would be one of the highest in the world.

Those Present.

The 49 people present at the official opening represented 14 speleological societies from all states of Australia, viz,

Canberra Speleological Society.
Cave Exploration Group (S.A.)
Cooranbong Speleological Society
Cooma Cave Club.
Hunter Valley Caving Club
Jenolan Speleological Society.
Mt. Isa Speleological Society,
Newcastle Tech. & Univ. College Speleological Society.
Orange Speleological Society.
Sydney Speleological Society.
Sydney University Speleological Society.
Tasmanian Caverneering Club.
Victorian Cave Exploration Society.
West Australian Caving Group.

Nomination of Chairman.

Mr. Brian J.O'Brien was nom. B.Nurse.

Sec. J.McGilchrist as chairman of conference.

No other nominations, so Mr.O'Brien was declared chairman and immediately took the chair.

General Business.

The spokesman of the various societies were introduced to the meeting and gave a brief account of their society, followed by general questioning from the meeting.

Motion : That the federation should extend a welcome to the new societies and offer to help them wherever possible.

Moved F.Brown.

Sec. L.Bishop.

Motion carried by acclamation.

Draft Constitution.

A draft constitution had been prepared by SUSS and SSS after consultation with all societies since 1954.

Motion : That the meeting should accept this draft constitution as a basis for discussion.

Moved. F.Brown.

Sec. A.Hunt. Carried.

The chairman pointed out at this juncture that only spokesmen or proxies were entitled to vote and that each society was only entitled to one vote.

Motion : That Clause 1 should read "The organization shall be known as the Australian Speleological Federation".

Moved B.Nurse.

Sec. E.Hamilton-Smith.

Some discussion followed regarding the use of the wider term Australasian, But this was not favoured by the meeting.

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION.

Minutes of the first meeting of committee of the Australian Speleological Federation, held at Parnanga, S.A. on 28th. Dec. 1956.

Present :	B.J.O'Brien.	President.
	E.Hamilton-Smith.	Secretary.
	B.S. Nurse.	Treasurer.
	R.Anderson.	Librarian.
	J.Jennings.	Canberra Spel. Soc.
	A.L.Hill.	C.E.G. (S.A.)
	F.Brown	Tas. Caverneering Club.
	C.Wallace.	Jenolan Spel. Soc..
	R. Lane.	S.S.S.
	R.Bailey.	Vic. Cave Expl. Soc.
	D.Cartwright.	W.A. Cave Group.
	A.Hunt.	SUSS.
	J.McGilchrist.	Newcastle also proxy for Hunter Valley Club.

This meeting took the form of a discussion to lay down initial policy for the guidance of the executive and to plan the year's programme. Formal motion and voting was not therefore adopted unless it proved not possible to reach unanimous agreement upon any point.

Secretarial Records. The secretary to use own discretion in setting up filing and record system. Minutes to be roneoed for circulation and a copy kept in special file.

Letterhead. It was agreed that a simple Letterhead should be prepared. Procurement of this to be in the hands of S.S.S. as soon as design decided upon and funds available.

Finance. Very long discussion took place on initial financing of the Federation. It was decided an initial fund would be necessary quite apart from that forthcoming from first subscriptions. The means of raising this was discussed and the suggestion that each society should contribute a sum on the basis of 2/- per head of total membership was put to the vote for decision. This was passed, with F.Brown dissenting.

Conduct of Conference. Each society acting as host to an annual conference shall submit to the secretary a report on the conduct of conference and associated activities. This shall be in duplicate, and one copy shall be added to a file which shall pass in turn to the next host society.

Contact with other bodies. The secretary to circulate notice of the formation of the federation to overseas speleological societies and to interested scientific bodies.

Sub-Committees. That subcommittees be set up as below :

Cave Safety - convenor Des Lyons. To enquire into the question of safety in caving, the use and content of safety codes and other relevant matters.

Cave terminology - convener Joe Jennings. To enquire into the definition of terms in use in Australian Speleology.

Each of these to report back to the Federation committee with recommendations towards the formulation of National policy and standards.

Current Scientific Research. The secretary to be responsible for the co-ordination of current research projects in Australian Speleology.

Publication. It was felt desirable that the Federation should produce a high standard speleological publication, but that this was not economically possible at the moment. The report on the Nullarbor expedition to be compiled by the secretary, and the secretary and A.Hill to report to the next full committee meeting on possible avenues of publication for this report.

Information Bureau. The Librarian is to compile an index to all available data on Australian Caves and speleology. He is not to collect actual copies of references or publications at this stage.